

APPOINTMENT, TENURE OF OFFICE, &c.

On motion of Mr. STOCKBRIDGE,

The convention proceeded to consider the report of the committee on tenure of office, duties and compensation of civil officers, &c., which was on its third reading.

Section one was read as follows:

"The governor, the comptroller of the treasury and the treasurer, shall constitute the board of public works, who shall exercise a diligent and faithful supervision of all public works in which the State may be interested as stockholder or creditor, and shall appoint the directors in every railroad or canal company in which the State has the legal power to appoint directors, which said directors shall represent the State in all meetings of the stockholders of every railroad or canal company in which the State is a stockholder; said board of public works shall require the directors of all said public works, from time to time, and as often as there shall be any change in the rates of toll on any of said works, to furnish said board a schedule of such modified rates of toll, and shall use all legal powers which they may possess to obtain the establishment of rates of tolls, which may prevent an injurious competition with each other, to the detriment of the interests of the State, and so to adjust them as to promote the agriculture of the State; the said board of public works shall keep a journal of their proceedings, they shall hold regular sessions in the city of Annapolis, on the first Wednesday in January, the first Wednesday in April, the first Wednesday in July, and the first Wednesday in October, in each year, and oftener if necessary, at which sessions they shall hear and determine such matters as affect the public works of the State; and the general assembly may confer upon them the power to decide; they shall at each regular session of the general assembly make a report to the general assembly and recommend such legislation as they shall deem necessary and requisite to promote or protect the interests of the State in the public works, and perform such other duties as may be hereafter prescribed by law; and a majority of them shall be competent to act; the governor, comptroller of the treasury and treasurer shall receive no additional salary for the services rendered as members of the board of public works."

Mr. THOMAS. I move to amend this section by inserting after the word "governor," in the first line the words "lieutenant governor, attorney general." I think it would be well to have those officers members of the board of public works. By reference to the constitution of the State of New York, I find that the treasury officers, together with the lieutenant governor, are all, by virtue of their offices, made commissioners of public works.

The question, being taken on the amendment of Mr. THOMAS, it was rejected.

Section two of the report was then read as follows:

"There shall be a commissioner of the land office elected by the qualified voters of the State on Tuesday next after the first Monday in the month of November, in the year eighteen hundred and sixty-nine, and on the same day, in every sixth year thereafter, who shall hold his office for the term of six years from the first day of January next after his election. The returns of said election shall be made to the governor, and, in the event of a tie between any two or more candidates, the governor shall direct a new election to be held by writs to the sheriffs of the several counties, who shall hold said election after at least twenty days notice, exclusive of the day of election. He shall perform such duties as are now required of the commissioner of the land office or such as may hereafter be prescribed by law, and shall be keeper of the chancery records. He shall receive a salary of two thousand dollars per annum, to be paid out of the treasury, and shall charge such fees as are now or may be hereafter fixed by law. The said commissioner of the land office shall make a semi-annual report of all the fees of his office, both as commissioner of the land office and keeper of the chancery records, to the comptroller of the treasury, and shall pay the same semi-annually into the treasury."

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE. Before we pass from this section I would like to inquire of the chairman of the committee on the schedule (Mr. RIDGELY,) whether any provision is embodied in the schedule which provides for any vacancy in the office of commissioner of the land office, or of the librarian? I observe that there is no such provision in this report, and it may be well to have one inserted.

Mr. RIDGELY. We have made no provision for vacancies; only for the continuance of those now in office until their terms have expired.

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE. Not to delay the convention, then, I will now give notice that when we reach the report on the schedule I will offer a general provision in relation to vacancies.

The PRESIDENT. I do not think that there are any offices not provided for in that respect, except the two named by the gentleman from Baltimore city (Mr. Stockbridge.)

Mr. CLARK. It was the understanding of the committee, I think, that there would be some general provision which would cover all cases not specially provided for. For that reason no provision of this character was put in this report.

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE. I move that the rules be suspended in order that I may offer an amendment to this section, as follows: add to the section the words "in case of vacancy from death, resignation, or any other cause, the governor shall fill such vacancy until the